

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00  
EB-08 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 OC-06  
CTME-00 SS-15 ICAE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00  
WRDE-00 MCT-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SMS-01 PA-01  
/080 W

-----017522 301233Z /50

Z O 301144Z AUG 78 ZFF-4  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN FLASH  
SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7573  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE IMMEDIATE

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS  
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, WB, PL, GE  
SUBJECT: HIJACKED POLISH AIRCRAFT LANDED AT TEMPELHOF, SITREP 1

REF: USBERLIN 2051 (NOTAL)

1. AS OF 1155 AM LOCAL TIME, AIRCRAFT, PASSENGERS, AND CREW  
ARE IN TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. PASSENGERS ARE BEING PROVIDED  
LUNCH AT AIRPORT CAFETERIA.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOUR PEOPLE MAY BE CONTEMPLATING ASKING  
FOR ASYLUM. A FEW TRAVELERS APPARENTLY WERE BOUND FOR WEST  
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BERLIN IN ANY EVENT, AND EXPECT TO LEAVE AIRPORT FOR THEIR  
WEST BERLIN DESTINATIONS. CHIEF OF POLISH MILITARY MISSION  
PENKALA IS AT AIRPORT NOW TALKING TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. HE  
WISHES TO SPEAK TO PILOT AND PASSENGERS OF AIRCRAFT; WE  
INTEND TO DELAY CONTACT WITH PILOT.

3. QUESTION OF WHEN TO RELEASE PILOTS AND PASSENGERS NOT RPT

NOT YET DECIDED. WE ARE CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES OF BUSSING THOSE WHO SO WISH TO EAST BERLIN OR ASKING THEM TO REBOARD AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHT TO SCHOENEFELD.

4. WE WILL BE RELEASING BASIC FACTS OF HIJACKING TO PRESS.

5. MAJORITY OF SIXTY-TWO PASSENGERS APPEAR TO BE EAST GERMANS. NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON OTHER NATIONALITIES AND NUMBERS AT THIS POINT.

6. THE BERLIN SENAT HAS COORDINATED THE FOLLOWING BRIEF STATEMENT WITH MISSION WHICH IT HAS RELEASED TO THE LOCAL PRESS: BEGIN QUOTE: THIS MORNING, SHORTLY AFTER 1000 AM, AN AIRCRAFT OF THE POLISH AIRLINE LOT LANDED AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. THE PLANE HAD BEEN ON A SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM DANZIG TO SCHOENEFELD. THE LANDING AT TEMPELHOF REPORTEDLY WAS FORCED BY A HIJACKER. THE SENAT WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF THESE FACTS BY THE RESPONSIBLE US AUTHORITIES. THE US AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE WHAT FURTHER MEASURES ARE TO BE TAKEN IN THIS CASE." END QUOTE. SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN WILL REFER ALL FURTHER QUESTIONS TO US MISSION SPOKESMAN.

7. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS ON HIJACKING:  
HIJACKER IS AN EAST GERMAN WAITER. (HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED TO A POLISH GIRL WHO NOW LIVES WITH THEIR CHILD IN WEST BERLIN.) HIJACKER HAS AN EAST GERMAN GIRLFRIEND WITH A CONFIDENTIAL

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CHILD. (BOTH WERE ON THE PLANE.) ON 2 AUGUST HIJACKER WENT TO POLAND ON VACATION. WHILE THERE HE NOTICED HOW EASY IT IS TO PURCHASE TOY PISTOLS ON THE OPEN MARKET. THIS FACT GAVE HIM THE IDEA TO PURCHASE SUCH A PISTOL AND TO ATTEMPT TO HIJACK AN AIRPLANE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE WITH HIS EAST GERMAN GIRLFRIEND AND THE CHILD SOMEHOW TO WEST BERLIN.

8. HIJACKER LEFT EAST BERLIN A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO FOR GDANSK (DANZIG), POLAND, TAKING HIS GIRLFRIEND AND THE CHILD WITH HIM. AT GDANSK HE PURCHASED TWO FLIGHT TICKETS FOR A TRIP TO SCHOENEFELD, EAST GERMANY, THIS MORNING AND LEFT LATER BY PLANE AS ORIGIN-ALLY SCHEDULED.

9. WHILE THE PLANE WAS ABOUT 15 MINUTES AWAY FROM SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT, HIJACKER TOOK THE TOY PISTOL FROM THE CHILD AND FORCED THE STEWARDESS TO REQUEST THE PILOT TO LAND AT EITHER TEGEL OR TEMPELHOF. FURTHERMORE, THE HIJACKER STATED THAT HE WOULD SHOOT THE STEWARDESS IN CASE THE PILOT FAILED TO COMPLY. THE PILOT COMPLIED WITH THE HIJACKER'S REQUESTS AND DECIDED TO LAND AT TEMPELHOF.

10. USCOB CONCURS. NELSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 aug 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** Released in Full  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** 200701569,200600072  
**Disposition Comment:** RECORDING OF CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION ACTION IN SAS (STATE ARCHIVING SYSTEM) BY THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THIS ACTION, WHO HAS APPROVED RECLASSIFICATION AND OR EXTENSION ACTION ON THIS DOCUMENT.  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780354-0160  
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**Message ID:** 93028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HIJACKED POLISH AIRCRAFT LANDED AT TEMPELHOF, SITREP 1  
**TAGS:** PINS, EAIR, WB, PL, GC  
**To:** BONN STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/93028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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